

FORM B - BUILDING

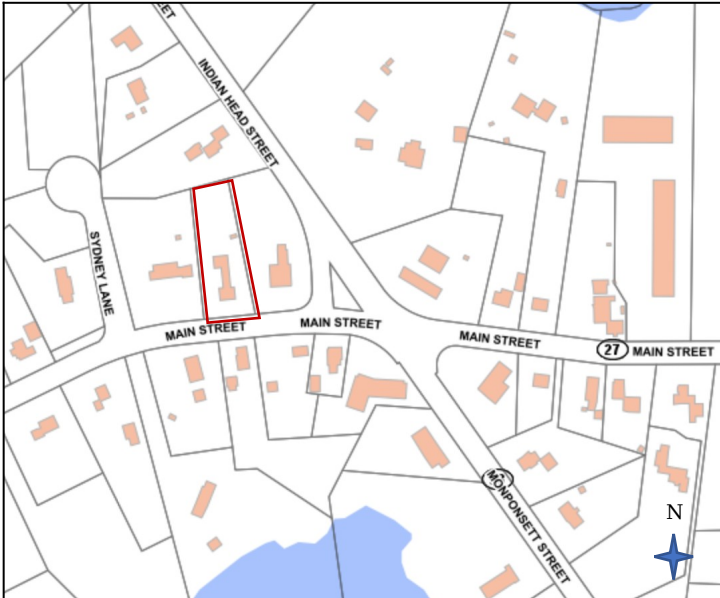
Date (*month / year*): June 2018

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson
community preservation + planning

Organization: Hanson Historical Commission

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form
Number

40-0-35-0

Hanover

HNS.231

Town/City: Hanson

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Address: 362 Main Street

Historic Name: Capt. Ebenezer Bourne Keen
and Almira Gurney House

Uses: Present: Single-Family Dwelling

Original: Single-Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1830

Source: White's History, Plan No. 4 Page 67

Style/Form: Federal/Cape

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard/Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Attached barn

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Additions to the north façade including a low cross-gable addition connecting the house to the former barn; original central chimney replaced at unknown date

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: .65 Acres

Setting: Located on one of Hanson's main thoroughfares, the house sits at the edge of a small commercial center with a busy intersection to the east and a mix of nineteenth and twentieth century homes to the west.

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☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The one-and-a-half story Cape style house has an asphalt shingled gable roof with two tall and narrow corbelled chimneys projecting up around the center of the south roof slope just below the roof ridge. The house is surrounded by mature trees and bushes and has two cross-gable additions extending from the center of the house's north façade which connect the house to a large gable roofed barn to the north. The house is wood clapboard sided with wood trim and a mix of wood and vinyl replacement six-over-six double hung windows. The roof of the house overhangs the gable facades only slightly with wood trimmed eaves and soffits projecting out over the wide cornice board and corner boards below. The roof ends flush with the gable-end facades, where a narrow band of wood trim outlines the pediment. The wood frames of the windows sit just below the cornice on the south façade and have narrow, projecting sills.

The house faces south towards the road and has a symmetrical front facade with two windows to either side of the center entrance. Each window on this façade is surrounded by working wood shutters which are not seen elsewhere on the house. The door frame has a wide, flat header that extends up into the cornice and around the wide pilasters with narrow capitals surrounding the door. The solid, vertical wood board door is surrounded by sidelights which have four panes of glass installed over low wood panels. The door opens onto a low granite landing leading to a stone walkway with branches to the street and driveway. Both the east and west gable-ends of the house have two smaller double hung windows on each floor, although the locations of the windows on the first floor varies slightly.

On the north façade, a lower cross-gable addition extends out of the center of the façade towards the gable roofed barn. This addition ends about half way to the barn, where a second addition begins. This second addition is slightly shorter than the first addition but has the same roof style and is of similar width. The north end of this addition attaches to the southeast corner of the south façade of the barn, which is a two-story, gable roofed structure with wood clapboard siding that matches the house. The dense vegetation lining both the east and west sides of the narrow lot make any further details difficult to see, but there appears to be double hung windows along the east façade of the connecting addition, at least one window in the west gable-end of the barn, and a potential barn door on the east gable-end of the barn.

The house sits slightly above the street with a low fieldstone wall running along the east property line and a short but steep drop off along the west property line. A wide, gravel driveway extends along the east façade and follows the property line. Evergreen bushes line the south façade of the house and mature trees are located throughout the property.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

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According to White's History of Hanson, 362 Main Street was built in 1830 for Captain Ebenezer Bourne Keen Gurney (1808-1887). It was built for him and his new wife, Almira Josselyn (1809-1869), whom he married in 1830. According to the 1832 Town Records, the home was valued at \$150.00. By the 1850s, the area surrounding the intersection of Main and Monponsett streets was known as "**Gurney's Corner**," although lived across Main Street from his son's at 361 Main Street and had married Deborah Keen in 1808. Thomas Gurney's house may still be standing and according to EBK, was one of the 31 houses in Hanson built before 1800.

E.B.K. Gurney was born in Abington and his grandparents included Revolutionary War soldier Isiah Keene and his wife, Lydia Bourne Keene, and Thomas and Mary House Gurney. He moved to Hanson as a young child and lived there for the rest of his life. After learning to play the fife as a child, Gurney became a member of Brigadier General Ephraim Ward of Middleborough's brigade band at the age of fifteen and later held a musician's warrant from Col. Jesse Reed of Marshfield. He led the Old Colony Brass Band until 1862 and for a time was also the commander of a light infantry company named the "Washington Guards." While not serving in the Civil War, he was active locally in raising funds for the Union Army. In addition to all of these tasks and duties, Gurney also worked as a shoemaker and mason before becoming a surveyor and becoming active in the probate business. He would also go on to write the "History of Hanson" section of Hurd's History of Plymouth County.¹

EBK and Almira had eleven children while living in the house and appear on the 1830 Smith Atlas, 1856 Walling Atlas, and 1879 Walker Atlas. The 1879 Walker Atlas shows two barns or outbuildings in the rear of the home. These structures may have become the enclosed additions located today on the north façade of the home as their footprints are similar to the building's footprint today.

After Almira's death in 1869, Gurney would go on to marry Desire S. Osborne (b. 1808) in 1872. E.B.K. Gurney died in 1887 at age 78. After his death, the home passed into the hands of his widowed daughter—Georgianna LeForest Luther (1847-1903). She had married Edward Luther (1839-1875), a shoemaker and former Union soldier, in 1866. They had three children before Edward's death in 1875, leaving Georgianna a young widow. Although "Mrs. G Luther" appears on the 1903 Richards Atlas, she died in 1903 at the age 56.

After her death, the property was inherited and divided between Georgianna's three daughters— Grace, Lucy, and Ada, and Georgianna's younger unwed sister, Miss E. Josephine Gurney (1849-1930), the youngest daughter of Captain E.B.K. and Almira Gurney.² Josephine never married. Instead, she earned her living working as a music teacher according to the 1870 and 1880 census. The 1900 census lists her as an invalid—suggesting that she may have fallen ill around this time. All three of Georgianna's daughters had married—becoming Grace Bonney, Lucy Pratt, and Ada Hemmenway. In 1922, Grace's husband, Otis, died, leaving her a widow. After Josephine's death in 1930, the home passed back to her three nieces. After Grace's death in 1943, her younger sisters sold the home to Alan C. and Eva L Goodwin.³ In 1960, the Goodwins sold the home to John and Julia Benson.⁴

In 1970, John M. Benson sold the home to Hans G. and Melissa A. Pirner who three years later, in 1973, sold the home to Stephen and Paul Snyder.⁵ The Snyders later sold the home to John P. and Janice C. Groover in 1978.⁶ The Groovers sold the home to Richard and Jean Fratus, the current owners, in 1992.⁷

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

¹ Hurd, Pages 340-355

² Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1185, Page 99; Book 1842, Page 491

³ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1848, Page 167

⁴ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 2796, Page 242

⁵ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 3592, Page 606; Book 4443, Page 95

⁶ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 4443, Page 95

⁷ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 11086, Page 313

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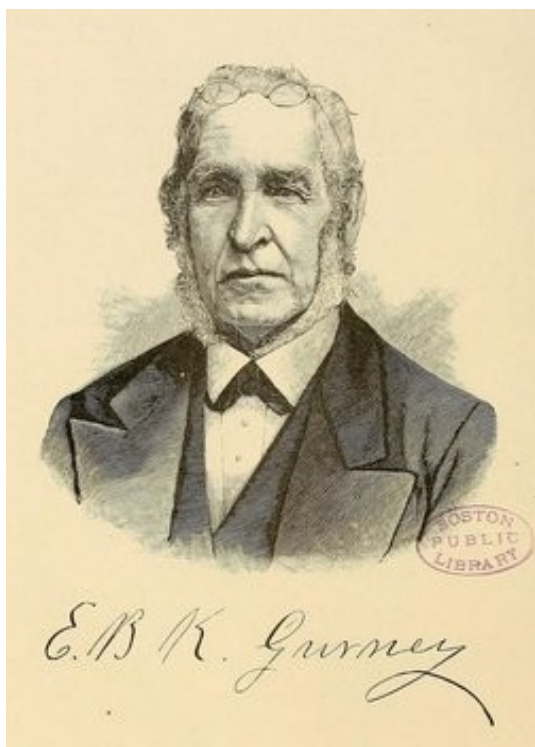
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Picture of Capt. Ebenezer B.K. Gurney from Hurd's 1884 *History of Plymouth County*

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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- ☒ Individually eligible ☐ Eligible **only** in a historic district
- ☐ Contributing to a potential historic district ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria: ☒ **A** ☒ **B** ☒ **C** ☐ **D**Criteria Considerations: ☐ **A** ☐ **B** ☐ **C** ☐ **D** ☐ **E** ☐ **F** ☐ **G**Statement of Significance by Lara Kritzer*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

The ca. 1830 Cape style house is eligible for individual listing on the National Register under Criteria A for its association with the early settlement of Plymouth County and Massachusetts, and development of Hanson as a separate town. The house may also be eligible under Criteria B as it was the longtime home of Capt. Ebenezer B.K. Gurney, a very active early citizen of Hanson who was regularly elected to represent the town and who wrote the "History of Hanson" included in Hurd's 1884 History of Plymouth County. Further, the house is also eligible under Criteria C as it has survived in its original location with both its setting and original architectural character intact despite over two centuries of use and alteration. The house embodies the distinctive character of early nineteenth century construction and illustrates how these homes were expanded and adapted over time to meet the changing needs of their residents. Additional information on the building's interior will also be needed for the Massachusetts Historical Commission to substantiate its National Register eligibility.